

THE  
EXAMINATIONS  
OF

Thomas Heth



IESUIT.

Being a Copy of the same, as they were Registre  
in the Registry of the See of Rochester.

*Anno Dom. 1568.*

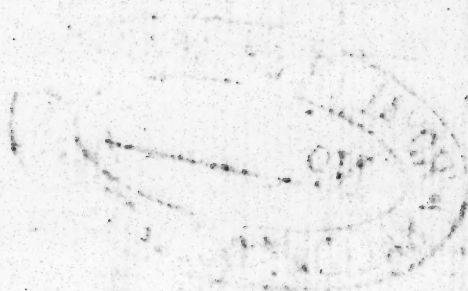
Extracted out of the Manuscripts of Sir James Wal-  
Knight, Deceased, late one of his Majesties Privy  
Council of Ireland.

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TO THE

READER:



Lately gave a *Tast* in the story of Faithfull Commin, a Dominican, of the ways and Artifices used by the Papal power to destroy the Reformation, which began to take root in the days of Queen Elizabeth of blessed memory; but now, as in a *Mirrour*, I set before you a Narrative of the practices of one Thomas Heth a Jesuit, who as far surpass him in subtilty, as his Order doth the other in wickedness, though for the likeness of their design, and the neerness of the time wherein they acted their delusions, they may not improperly be said to be twinns, both aiming at the same End; viz. the Dividing the professors of that Truth which then appeared, into parties, and factions, knowing the maxim of their old Father (*divide et impera*) is not only the best means to master and overcome the truth and its Assertors, but also to break the bonds of Peace amongst them. The Paper will speak for its self, and shew its fitness for the use and consideration of the present times, so that,



*I hope, I shall not need to apologize for it, or press upon true protestants to look to themselves, that they receive none of the Leaven of these Romish Emisseries, or pollute their Garments with the seed of those Heresies, Schismes, and Seditions, that have been spawned within their Cells; for however pleasing they may appear in their first coming forth, you will find, that all the Errors of that kind that have been broached since the Erection of that order, have not sprung from Accidents, nor been the effect of hot, Crazy, or unwary brains, but the products of deep and premeditated designs, from the success of which, Good Lord Deliver us,*

Thy faithfull Freind,

**R: WARE.**

The Examinations of *Thomas Herb* a Jesuit, being  
a Copy of the same, as they were Registered in the  
Registry of the See of Rochester, Anno Dom. 1568.

**T**homas Herb the Brother of Nicholas Herb, formerly Bishop of Rochester, in the Reign of Henry the Eight, King of England &c. was seized on in the City of Rochester upon the 21th of November, Anno 1568. This Thomas pretending to be a poor minister, made friendship with the Dean to prefer him to the Bishop; yet the Dean thought it fit before he would present him to the Bishop, or speak in his behalf to appoint a day for this said Thomas to Preach, which Sermon was Preached on the day above written, Chusing his Text out of the Acts of the Holy Apostles, Chapter the 12th verse the 5 h viz. *Peter therefore was kept in Prison, But Prayers were made without ceasing of the Church to God for him.*

The occasion of his apprehension fell out thus; He having Preached that Sunday in his Cathedral, pulling his handkerchief often out of his Pocket, a letter slipped thereout into the Pulpit, The superscription being directed to him by the name of *Thomas Finni* from *Samuel Malt* a man well known to be a Jesuit; which Letter ran as follows.

Brother,

The Council of our Fraternity have thought it fit to send you *David George*, *Theodorus Sartor* and *John Huts*, their Collections, which you may distribute where ever you see it may be for your purpose, according to the Peoples inclinations; These mixtures, with your own, will not only a little puzzle the understanding of the Auditors, but make your self famous: We suppose your wants are not considerable at present by what we have heard, how your flock do admire you every day more then other. Be not over Zealous in your proceedings in the beginning, but gradually win on them as you visit them, and according as you find their Inclinations bend to your design. Let us hear how you have proceeded, for it will satisfie your brethren much, and enable them the better to instruct you for the future. *Hallingham*, *Co'e-man*, and *Benson*, have set a faction amongst the German Hereticks so that several who have turned from us, have now denied their Baptisme, which we hope will soon turn the scale, and bring them back to their old Principles; This we have Certified to the Council and Cardinals, that there is no other way to prevent people from turning Hereticks, and for the recalling of others back again to the Mother Church, Then by the diversities of Doctrines, We wish you to prosper.

Sam: Malt,

Madrid October the 26 h Anno 1568.

This Letter being found by *Richard Fisher*, Then Sexton of this Cathedral, was first shewn to the Dean, and afterwards presented to the Bishop *Edmond Gest*, then being Bishop of this See, who caused an Assembly the next day to be called, before whom this said Thomas was thus Examined, being Munday the 22 h of November. 1568.

*Edmond Gest* Bishop, How long, Mr. Herb, have you preached in England?

*T. H.* About six years and more.

*Bishop*, Were you of any certain Order formerly, before this late Reformation of the Church of England.



*Bishop*, Are you not still of that Order, and have you not now and then some correspondence with that Order?

*T. H.* The Ministry will venture to Instruct one another, But your Lordship seeth how I have retired my self from those whom you call Jesuits.

*Bishop*, We suppose, Mr. *Heth*, you have not totally forsaken their Tenents, though you have their Persons.

*T. H.* Wherein may I be suspected not to forsake their Tenents, as well as their Company?

*Bishop*, There is great suspicion, that you are not of the Church of *England*, by the words which you spoke yesterday in your Sermon.

*T. H.* What words were those, my Lord?

*Bishop*, You said, that it was not the Prayers of the Church as are now Established, that brought *Peter* out of Prison, but spiritual prayers.

*T. H.* And were they not spiritual Prayers that availed for him, and where have we Scripture for any set Form in the Church.

*Bishop*, It there be no Scripture for any set form, in the Church of *England*, much less for any set Form among your Fraternity; for what we have Established is out of the written word of God. But as for your Popish Orders, viz. *Augustines, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, &c.* ye all differ in the prayers of the Mass one from another, where then is your Scripture for so many varieties of Prayers and Masses?

*T. H.* They have antiquity on their side, and as for the alteration of Prayers, every Fraternity and Convent have power amongst themselves, as is most meet for that Congregation Assembled.

*Bishop*, Now seeing you have begun to talk of antiquity, pray, Mr. *Heth*, tell me, were all the Orders of the Church of *Rome* ordayned at once; no surely, for some Orders are antiënter than others, by Reason they have been allowed of by several Popes; But as for yours, That Order was but of late dayes Established; Therefore you have little or no antiquity to plead.

*T. H.* My Lord, you see I am fallen from that Society, which I perceive by your passages in examining me so strictly, you suspect me to be one of still. I confess I am not totally of the Episcopal party of *England*, because I have laboured to refine the Protestants, And to take of all smacks of Ceremonies that in the least do tend to the *Romish* Faith.

*B. p.* Hath not our gracious Queen by her Learned Council and Assembly of Divines, who several times have sat for the Reformation of the Religion now declared, and confirmed by her Highnesses high Court of Parliament Established, the forms and manners thereof, what hath any particular man to meddle any further?

*T. H.* I was but my good will in Endeavouring to make it purer.

*B. p.* You are a pure Steele I must needs say, in pretending that you are reformed, yet let me ask one Question, Mr. *Heth*, had you not of late any Letters from any of your Society?

*T. H.* I might be I have had Letters, must I therefore be of their Order still, because they write to dissuade a man from his principles, no sure, my Lord.

*B. p.* Your Society write Mr. *Heth* not to dissuade you, but that you may dissuade

**Bishop, yea and you know him full well.**

T. H. It may be so my Lord.

Bishop, Mr. Dean, I'll Mr. Hob the Letter, and let him tell whether he knows the handwriting, and call in Richard Fisher to come into the Court.

R. F. Here, my Lord.

**Bishop,** How came you by this Letter?

R. F. I found it yesterday after Evening song in the Pulpit:

**Bishop,** You know it if you see it, is this the same?      **R. F.,** The very same.

*Bishop*, Behold *Mr. Heib*, here is a Letter, and it is to be supposed to be dropt from you, when you Preached yesterday, for none stood in the Pulpit saving your self.

T. H. Let me see the Letter once more Mr. *Dean*, behold my Lord this Letter is rected to another man named *Thomas Finne*; but my name is *Thomas Hetb*.

**Bishop.** You are not the first that hath altered your name, how long have you been this town?  
**T. H.** About three weeks.

**T, H,** About three weeks.

Bishop, to what intent came you hither?

T. H. upon two Accompts my Lord, first to visit my friends, for my Brothtr N-  
was Bishop of this See formerly; secondly to be preferred, for the *Dean* promised  
to commend me to your Lordship.

ishop, Mr. Dean, did you promise to prefer Mr. Hetb:

he Dean, I did my Lord, and upon that account I permitted him to preach be-  
you, but this paper hath altered mine intentions.

After these Examinations the Bishop and the Dean consulting together, it was agreed on, to send to this Impostors Lodging, which was at the Queens Armes in the town of Rochester, search being made, by his bed side hung a pair of Boots, one of them being fuller and Rounder then the other, the searchers searched and found several papers, among which was not only a Licence from the fraternity of the Jesuits, Bull dated the first of *Pius Quintus* for to Preach what Doctrine that Society thought for the Dividing of Protestants (therein nameing the English Protestants by names of Hereticks) Amongst those things that were in his trunk, were several books for denying of Baptism to Children, with several other horrid Blasphemies, these things being brought before the whole Assembly, the Bishop adjourned; The next day appointing another day for further Examinations, till they had acquainted her Majesty and her Honourable Council with these passages and desired her Majesty to command how to proceed further, in the mean while the Bishop caused him to be shut in Goal with bolts, till her Majesty and the Council gave further directions. On the 25th of the same being *Thursday*, the Bishop caused the Court to be gathered together, and sent for this Imposture again, who being brought before the whole Assembly, the Bishop made this speech following.

For it is visible how you have not only deluded several poor soules, but also a-  
gainst the Majesty and the Ministry of this Kingdom, by your Romish and Jesuitical  
Policy, purposely to sow sedition in the Church of Christ, it is  
well known that though your Society have taken the name of  
Jesus, ( by terming your selves Jesuits, ye have denied Christi-  
anity which is Christ, for several have been called by the name  
of Jesus, but none by Christ, from which it is manifestly seen,



People whom ye endeavour through a blind pretended zeal to withdraw from the truth, will at last be your own Bane and hate your Society more then we, so that at the end when ye shall think ye have accomplished your evil designs, and fall upon the Church of Christ, Those very people whom ye have after these Satanical delusions beguiled will not through love so much joyn with Christ to overthrow your male intentions, as through peif & hatred to your wicked pollicies.

To severall mens knowledge; as we have since enquired after Thy Actions; Th<sup>e</sup> Hostess and her Husband have declared that thou hast spoken against thine own Order, yet thou by thy outward purity hast defiled thine own calling, under the pretence to purify the Church of England, what canst thou therefore say for thyself that thou maist not be made a publike Example to all spectators for thy wicked Schismatical Sedition sown within these Her Majesties Dominions; wilt thou openly declare to God and to the World thy wicked and evil intentions, which caused thee to Run into these Schisms, and reform the course of thy life, which now thou livest in: And not only my self, but the whole Court here assembled, will endeavour to get thy Pardon, and provide for thy future maintenance.

*T. H.* My Lord, I know not what I might have done, had not I been so publickly Examined, but seeing my vocation is so publickly known, I shall not acknowledge myself to be Guilty of any misdemeanor, for I have fought a good fight for Christ whose cause I have taken in hand. This experiment I tryed amongst my Countymen, that the world may see that all those who term themselves Protestants, are not of the Church of England, though they speak against Rome.

The Bishop hearing this obstinate man speake so rudely, said, behold my Brethren, Jesuits Confession how he hath declared, he had set up a certain Form of Religion purposely to withdraw ye all from the Church of England. These things will be amongst us whilst we are a Church; but woe be to those deluders and to those who will be deluded by them, ye have a good Law, and the Light of the Holy Gospel now flourishing amongst you, which hath been for these many years past scoundered; therefore my Brethren consider the Condition of your Souls: If you forsake once, from your principles having the right way so plainly set before ye ye will not only be in Popish slavery again; but be in peril of a total confusion of Soul and Body, and if Rome get once her Foot upon these Dominions again, not only yourselves and your Children, but your Princes and Nobles shall become Slaves to Idolatry.

After this short speech of the Bishop, this Villain was led to Goal, the people following him, being for three days brought to the market-plae at Rochester, where stood by the High-cross, with a paper put before his Brest, setting forth his Crimes then Pillored; but on the last of the three market days, his Ears were cut off, forehead Branded with the Letter R, and his Nose slit, and to endure perpetual imprisonment, where all people that would, might behold him; Yet it was ordered, that this wretch perceiving how he was daily derided and scorned within certain months after his punishment, dyed suddenly, and suspected to have poisoned himself. These examinations agreed with the Original as they were Registered in the High Rocke begun from the Second &